



Jim Knight “King of the Boards”

Pirate jersey #42¹ Jim Knight was explosive under the glass during coaches Bill Dunn and John Wood era’s of basketball at Charlestown.

As a middle man for the Pirates, Knight stood in at 6’-5”, and made his presence known through the ‘70’s as he conquered the boards as one of the best sweepers of the glass in Pirate history.

From 1972 through 1975, he set a single career mark of 907 rebounds making him ‘king of the boards’ bringing new respect and awareness of the importance of winning on the backboards.

During his rule on the court, Knight took charge under the glass while cohort Mike Bottorff, the leading shooter for the Pirates, was popping the nylon that season of upheaval battles in the won-lost column. Steve Wilson, the consistent side-arm of Bottorff made for a terrific threesome on the hardwood. Kelly Reis, son of former standout Pirate player in the latter part of the 30’s and 40’s, Harold “Dutch” Reis, was another sharp athlete that oft-time rounded out the outstanding quintet.

In his estimation, Knight’s attitude for wanting to have dominance on the boards was quite simple, “I was not a real good shooter and my philosophy was you had to have the ball to win, so every time the ball went up on the glass it was mine---no matter what, it was mine! I was goin’ after it. I was bound and determined to get the ball to give us a better chance to win. The scoring doesn’t mean *nothing* if you don’t have the ball---I wanted the rebounds!”



Jim Knight #42 with ball (Photograph courtesy of the Charlestown-Clark County Public Library)

¹ Sources: The Evening News, Jeffersonville, Indiana; The Jeffersonville Twp Public Library, Jeffersonville, Indiana; photograph courtesy of the Charlestown-Clark County Public Library, Charlestown, Indiana; Charlestown High School Annual.